

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (New) A method for protection link fault supervision, comprising the steps of monitoring active and standby transmission lines between a sending node and a receiving node, wherein both transmission lines carry identical data traffic,

terminating each transmission line at a separate line termination board, each line termination board associated with a persistency timer for timing persistency of a fault;

detecting and reporting faults on each transmission line simultaneously to a link supervision block associated with the receiving node, wherein the link supervision block is adapted for

storing fault causes received from the termination boards;

correlating the fault causes received from each termination board and

switching between the active transmission line termination board and the standby transmission line termination board;

comparing the persistency of fault time periods in each transmission line with a predetermined period;

determining that a correlation of the fault causes and the comparison of the fault time periods indicates a traffic disturbing fault on the active link; and

switching the traffic from the active line termination board to the standby line termination board.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the active line termination board timer is started upon detection of a fault.

8. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the active and standby line termination boards both report all fault state changes when the fault state changes are detected.

9. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein an additional persistency check is made before correlation of the fault causes.

10.(New) In a network, a node for providing link fault supervision between nodes, the node comprising:

- means for monitoring active and standby transmission lines between a sending node and a receiving node, wherein both transmission lines carry identical data traffic,

- means for terminating each transmission line at a separate line termination board, each line termination board associated with a persistency timer for timing persistency of a fault;

- means for detecting and reporting faults on each transmission line simultaneously to

- a link supervision block associated with the receiving node, wherein the link supervision block is adapted for

 - storing fault causes received from the termination boards;

 - correlating the fault causes received from each termination board and

 - switching between the active transmission line termination board and the standby transmission line termination board;

- means for comparing the persistency of fault time periods in each transmission line with a predetermined period;

- means for determining that a correlation of the fault causes and the comparison of the fault time periods indicates a traffic disturbing fault on the active link; and

- means for switching the traffic from the active line termination board to the standby line termination board.

11.(New) The node of claim 6, wherein each line termination board includes a persistency timer.

12.(New) The node of claim 6, wherein the active line termination board timer is started upon detection of a fault.

12.(New) The node of claim 8, wherein the active and standby line termination boards both report all fault state changes when the fault state changes are detected.

13.(New) The node of claim 8, further comprising means for making an additional persistency check before correlation of the fault causes.